

Governor's Military Affairs Commission (GMAC) Meeting
Location: 5000 E. 29th Street, Freedom Community Center
Tucson, AZ 85711
January 31, 2008
9:30 am

Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order:

GMAC Co Chair Lisa Atkins called the meeting order at 9:40 am.

II. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Lisa Atkins, Co-Chair, West Valley
Thomas Finnegan, Co-Chair, Ft. Huachuca 50
Mayor Robert Strain, City of Sierra Vista
Mayor Robert Walkup, City of Tucson
Robert Johnston, Lt. Gen., USMC (Ret.), Tucson
Dr. William Carrell, Jr., Tucson
Priscilla Storm, Diamond Ventures, Tucson
Thomas Browning, Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret.)
County Supervisor Sandie Smith, Pinal
County Supervisor Lenore Stuart, Yuma
Deputy Commissioner Jamie Hogue, Arizona State Land
Mayor James Cavanaugh, City of Goodyear (telephonically)

Commissioners Absent:

Senator Thayer Verschoor, Senate
Monsignor Richard O'Keeffe, Yuma
Representative John Nelson, Arizona House of Representatives
Michael Francis, West Valley Community Action Coalition

Ex-Officio Members, Governor's Liaison and Staff Present:

Anna Chavez, Military Policy Advisor to the Governor
Deb Sydenham, Asst. Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Commerce
June Sinclair, Program Manager, Military Installation Fund, Arizona
Department of Commerce
Rachel Valenzuela, Rural Development Arizona Department of
Commerce

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2007

Co-Chair Lisa Atkins moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner – Mayor Walkup seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

IV. Commission Updates

Commissioner Stuart: Marine Corps will hold their annual show on February 23rd, the WTI starts in March and an invitation was extended to all the GMAC commissioners.

Co-Chair Atkins: Aux Field 1 at Luke AFB – the project is still under analysis by the chief of the Attorney General’s Office Natural Resource Section with no timeframe yet for completion. Secondly, the Legislature has begun session with several bills up that will affect the military as in The Arizona Military Friendly State Bill; a compact to be established among all the states. The bill will require a minimum of 10 states to sign on and to set up a commission with a representative from each state to determine how the bill will be implemented.

V. Old Business

Florence Military Reservation Update – Discussion and Possible Action

Commissioner Smith provided an update on the impact of the Superstition Vistas Project

- Biggest danger – growth in the Vistas is estimated to be 900,000 to a million people and the escalating price of state land
- A committee is working with the Arizona State Land Department to establish a noncommercial lease rate for the military.
- A land fill on private land was paved to decrease impact on the military range by ATV users.
- A nearby development has removed a firing pin and put up fencing to secure the range.
- According to Jamie Hogue, Deputy State Land Commissioner, the Land Department is working with the military and the private sector to help reduce overall payment by sharing land that is not used everyday for private/military contractors that want to use the land for training by forming a type of cooperative as payments from the private sector will help offset military costs.

Soft Spots Discussion and Possible Action: Commissioner Tom Finnegan

- All recommendations will be sent to the Governor and the Legislature
- DoD pushing to establish Western Region Partnership (WRP) to include Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah to work together to stem encroachment of military installations, training ranges and airspace.
- Recommendations should go beyond the “soft spots” (areas considered to be most at risk) to identify deficiencies and to resolve quickly.
- The Military Installation Fund (MIF) funding should be continued and possibly the dollar amount increased.
- Commissioner Finnegan requested to receive comments from the GMAC by mid February.
- Ms. Sydenham will inquire into the completion date for The McGuire Military Economic Impact Study.

Ms. Chavez updated the Commissioners regarding the fall 2007 Arizona Commanders Summit – the commanders will set up a separate meeting with the Governor to discuss soft spot issues.

Commissioner Smith introduced the issue of county land splits as it pertains to zoning and buffering and the dangers of creating several parcels. This issue will be addressed at a future meeting.

VI. New Business

D-M MC3 – Progress Report, Discussion and Possible Action (Col. Laughbaum, Davis-Monthan AF13)

MC3 Consensus Recommendations: After meeting with the Military Community Compatibility Committee (MC3), Col. Laughbaum implemented the following actions based on the MC3 report and recommendations:

- Raised pattern altitudes
- Altered visual approach down Aviation Blvd/RR tracks
- Altered helicopter route from 22nd Street to I-10
- Explored new southeast helicopter departure routing
- Publicized historical frequency/timing of night operations
- Maximized use of other military bases for practice approaches
- Supported the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) public notification requirements
- Good Neighbor Annual Review
- Revised “Community” website similar to Luke AFB
- Modeled DM hotline after Tucson Mayor/Council Comment Line
- Increased publicity of community interest information
- Supported creation of a Military Community Relations Committee

Col. Laughbaum introduced the co-chairs of the Military Community Relations Committee (MCRC), Gail Cordy and Alan Stein, a committee made up of local citizens to work with the military installation to address community concerns. Information regarding the MCRC can be found on the DMAFB website, www.dm.af.mil.

D-M Paddle Development (Houghton Corridor Plan) – Discussion and Possible Action (Commissioner Dr. Bill Carrell)

The major concern with encroachment is with the southeast “paddle” whereupon virtually all arrivals and departures go in and out. The paddle covers more than 10,000 acres or 485 parcels of land; most of which are open spaces. Three years ago county voters approved \$10 million in bonds to acquire open spaces to maintain the base’s ability to utilize its runways. To date, 300 acres have been acquired costing approximately \$8 million. A new initiative was recently introduced for another \$10 million bond to continue the open space land acquisitions. There is concern as most of the land falls out of the JLUS study and is zoned for types of development not allowed in JLUS regulations. Bonds can only be used to purchase open space properties. It is believed that without keeping the paddle viable the base will be in jeopardy.

Westcor is currently working with Arizona State Land Department, the county and DMAFB to develop state land while also staying within the recommended JLUS regulations.

162nd Air Guard Mission Briefing – Discussion and Possible Action (Col. Stroud, Vice Wing Commander 162nd Fighter Wing)

- Mission Elements consist of: F-16 and U.S. allies training and Security Assistance Training, Homeland Defense, Air and Space Expeditionary Force and State Emergency Response
- Additional training services to active duty Air Force, Navy and Reserve
- Three squadrons on base; the 152nd, the 148th and the 195th Fighter Squadrons
- Offer 24/7 Emergency Response: Fire Protection, Security Forces, Emergency Medical Techs and Metropolitan Medical Response System and Strategic National Stockpile
- Home of the largest International Guard Fire Training or Flying Unit in the country
- There are a total of 66 military planes on base
- The 162nd Fighter Wing has trained over 700 F-16 pilots from 23 different nations worldwide with a total of 6,844 students
- Community Impact: \$270 million in economic impact including \$120 million from international customers

VII. Calendar Dates and Locations: Upcoming GMAC Meetings

Thursday, March 27, 2008 – Yuma, AZ, Arizona College

Thursday, May 29, 2008 – Sierra Vista (location TBD)

VIII. Call to the Public:

Question by Ms. Anne Gomez: What other major U.S. cities have live ordinance taking off on a regular basis over a densely populated area?

Response: Col. Laughbaum did not know the exact number but knew there were many and stressed the criticalness of the missions and his commitment to the continued safety of the community.

Comments by Mr. Alan Stein: As a member of the MCRC Mr. Stein extended an invitation to the Air National Guard of the State to participate in the MCRC. Mr. Stein expressed his concerns with DMAFB and its relationship with the City of Tucson regarding its operations and combat missions in relationship to the growth of Tucson and the encroachment challenges. Mr. Stein believes that these operations pose a serious danger to the nearby communities.

Comments by Mr. Robin Gomez: Appreciation was expressed for the cooperation, honesty and help given by Col. Kent Laughbaum. Mr. Gomez seeks a reduction in training operations from DMAFB and asked that moving the base to the Goldwater Range be considered or to consider looking for other open space areas for relocation. Written comments were provided and are on file.

Comments by Karen Martin: Ms. Martin expressed her concerns with Operation Snowbird and believes the aircraft involved with Operation Snowbird are not compatible with the current aircraft flying over Tucson. The Operation Snowbird program is not part of the static base mission and is a separate entrepreneurial project. Ms. Martin would like to have Operation Snowbird moved to another base.

IX. Adjournment

Co-chair Lisa Atkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Dr. Bill Carrell seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.